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## **Press Release - Pressemitteilung - 2-09**

### **EAC and ARBÖ do not give up the fight against overpriced Slovenian tolling system**

Brussels 2009-11-18 Already in May 2008, on the initiative of his Austrian member ARBÖ, the EAC took action against the Slovenian tolling system, finally introduced in July last year. Our criticism: The sole offering of annual and half-year vignettes as well as the later introduced but heavily overpriced short-term vignette put tourists and transit passengers using Slovenian roads only scarcely at a disadvantage and foil the European non-discrimination principle.

Thanks to this commitment, supported by Austrian MEP Jörg Leichtfried, the European Commission launched an infringement proceeding against Slovenia. This did not only entail negotiations between the Slovenian Ministry of Transport and the European Commission but also led to financial sanctions. Previously approved European cohesion funding for motorway constructions has been withdrawn.

Following information from the Slovenian Transport Ministry of Transport, by now it seems that the infringement proceeding will soon be closed without having led to tangible results. "It is disappointing," said EAC President Peter Stuppacher. "Keeping in mind that finally Slovenia recently was provided EU with funds for road constructions, it is especially exasperating." The country strongly benefits from the European Union without standing up for European principles in terms of goods and passenger transport. "However, we will not give up," Stuppacher said. According to information from the European Parliament and the Commission, the infringement proceeding were only halted and might be brought up again by the new European Commission.

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**About Us:** Working together to improve mobility - That's the principle governing the work of the present five partners from Germany and Austria cooperating in the European Automobile Club Association (EAC). The EAC represents the interests of a total of 2.5 million people. As a partner for mobility, our vision is a Europe without borders where travel is easy. That requires harmonising traffic laws between the EU Member States and driving forward innovative technologies – to ensure greater safety and sustainability on the roads.